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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/458)*]

68/197. International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[1] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[2] the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[3] the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[4] the joint ministerial statement adopted at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs[5] and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,[6]

Reaffirming also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[7] adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, and calling upon States to take the measures necessary to fully implement the actions set out therein, with a view to attaining, in a timely manner, their goals and targets,

Recalling its resolution 53/115 of 9 December 1998, in which it urged Governments, the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations to assist and support, upon request, transit States, in particular developing countries in need of such assistance and support, aiming at enhancing their capacity to fight the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

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[1] Resolution S-20/2, annex.

[2] Resolution S-20/3, annex.

[3] Resolution S-20/4 E.

[4] Resolution 54/132, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 8* (E/2003/28/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. C.

[6] Resolution 68/196, annex.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

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Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] the provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome addressing the world drug problem,[9] the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS[10] and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012 and those on regional and international cooperation to prevent the diversion and smuggling of precursors,

Recalling further the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of its resolution 2012/12 of 26 July 2012 on the strategy for the period 2012–2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop, within the United Nations system, an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and the world drug problem, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard,

Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to comply with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[11] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[12] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[13]

Recognizing the importance both of the universality of the three above-mentioned international drug control conventions and of their implementation,

Welcoming the measures taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop a thematic and regional programme approach to its activities, and noting the progress in the implementation of such an approach,

Recalling all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session,[14]

Gravely concerned that, despite continuing increased efforts by States, relevant organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families, and to the national security and sovereignty of States, and that it undermines socioeconomic and political stability and sustainable development,

Deeply concerned about the need to take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children and young people against the use or abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as defined in the relevant treaties, and to prevent the use of children and young people in the illicit production of and trafficking in such substances, and

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[8] Resolution 55/2.

[9] See resolution 60/1.

[10] Resolution 60/262, annex.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[12] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[13] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[14] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 8* (E/2013/28), chap. I, sect. C.

urging Governments to implement Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 53/10 of 12 March 2010,[15]

Recognizing the importance of preventing and addressing drug-related youth crime, considering its impact on the social and economic development of societies, and supporting the rehabilitation and treatment of young offenders and their reintegration into society,

Stressing the importance of the focus placed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session on the issues of the prevention of drug abuse, the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances and the treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and recovery of drug-dependent persons,

Noting with grave concern the global increased abuse of certain drugs and the proliferation of new substances, such as those indicated in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/4 of 15 March 2013,[14] as well as the increasing sophistication of the transnational organized criminal groups engaged in their manufacture and distribution,

Noting with grave concern also the increased abuse and manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants worldwide, as well as the proliferation and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the emergence of new methods of diversion used by organized criminal groups,

Recognizing that the use of new psychoactive substances that are not controlled under the international drug control treaties and that may pose potential public-health risks has emerged in recent years in several regions of the world, and noting the increasing number of reports about the production or manufacture of substances, most commonly herbal mixtures, including synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists that have psychoactive effects similar to those produced by cannabis, and psychoactive substances that are increasingly being marketed as legal alternatives to internationally controlled drugs,

Recognizing also the critical importance of forensic and scientific laboratory and treatment centre data and qualitative information in understanding the problem of illicit synthetic drugs and the range of products available on the illicit market,

Considering Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/5 of 15 March 2013,[14] in which the Commission encouraged the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider the dissemination of forensic drug profiling, to the extent possible, in national and regional programmes,

Noting the need to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and recalling in that regard Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/4 of 12 March 2010[15] and 54/6 of 25 March 2011,[16]

Recognizing that sustained and collective efforts through international cooperation in demand reduction and supply reduction have shown that positive

[15] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 8* (E/2010/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[16] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 8* (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

results can be achieved, and expressing its appreciation for the initiatives at the bilateral, regional and international levels in this regard,

Recognizing also the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, as the United Nations organs with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and recognizing further the need to promote and facilitate the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Reaffirming that countering the world drug problem in all its aspects requires a political commitment to reducing supply, as an integral component of a balanced and comprehensive drug control strategy, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[17] including the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, also adopted at that session, and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, noted as the outcome of the International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, held in the provinces of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 6 to 11 November 2011, and the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima from 14 to 16 November 2012, hosted by the Governments of Thailand and Peru, respectively, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Reaffirming equally that reducing drug abuse and its consequences requires a political commitment to efforts to reduce demand, which must be demonstrated by sustained widespread demand reduction initiatives that are age- and gender-sensitive and integrate a comprehensive public-health approach spanning the spectrum of prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session, and other relevant Assembly resolutions,

Conscious of the need to raise public awareness of the risks and threats posed to all societies by the different aspects of the world drug problem,

Recalling the adoption, by its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and the decision, contained in the Declaration, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Declaration and Plan of Action, the recommendation that the Economic and Social Council devote a high-level segment

[17] Resolutions S-20/4 A-E.

to a theme related to the world drug problem and the recommendation that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem,

Reaffirming that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Welcoming the efforts of countries that have worked for decades to counter the world drug problem and have acquired knowledge, experience and institutional capacities that enable them to afford cooperation to other countries, in application of the principle of common and shared responsibility,

Recalling its resolution 67/193, in which it decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, following the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, which will be conducted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in March 2014,

Recalling also its decision in the aforementioned resolution that the special session of the General Assembly would review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Noting its decision to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing resources,

1. *Reiterates its call upon* States to take, in a timely manner, the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[7] adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

2. *Reaffirms* that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, that it requires an integrated and balanced approach and that it must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other provisions of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[18] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[19] on human rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to engage in effective cooperation and practical action aimed at addressing the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility;

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[18] Resolution 217 A (III).

[19] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

4. *Encourages* Member States to give adequate consideration to the negative effects of the world drug problem and its consequences on development and on society in general;

5. *Invites* Member States to implement comprehensive drug abuse prevention measures from a perspective that considers the individual as well as the community and society as a whole, including through public-health education on the dangers of drug abuse, violence prevention, rehabilitation and aftercare to reintegrate former drug users into society, as well as anticipate, detect and analyse various risks to communities associated with drug-related violence and crime;

6. *Undertakes* to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at countering the world drug problem more effectively, in particular by encouraging and supporting such cooperation by those States most directly affected by illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

7. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, taking into account the specific needs of women and the particular challenges posed by high-risk drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, and commits Member States to investing increased resources in ensuring access to those interventions on a non-discriminatory basis, including in detention facilities, bearing in mind that those interventions should also consider vulnerabilities that undermine human development, such as poverty and social marginalization;

8. *Notes with great concern* the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to tackling those problems in the context of comprehensive, complementary and multisectoral drug demand reduction strategies, in particular such strategies targeting children, young people and their families, also notes with great concern the alarming rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, also reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to working towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions and, when applicable, the technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, requests the Office to carry out its mandate in this area in close cooperation with relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and takes note of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/6 of 15 March 2013[14] on these issues;

9. *Urges* Member States, where appropriate, to develop national responses to address the issue of drug-affected driving by, inter alia, exchanging information and best practices on effective responses, including through engagement with the international scientific and legal communities;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/4[15] and 54/6,[16] the adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their efforts in that regard;

11. *Urges* all Member States to enact comprehensive measures aimed at stemming the abuse of prescription drugs, in particular through the establishment of awareness-raising initiatives targeting the general public and health-care providers;

12. *Acknowledges* the continuing efforts made and the progress achieved in countering the world drug problem, notes with great concern the continuing illicit production of and trafficking in opium, the continuing illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine, the increasing illicit production of and trafficking in cannabis, the ongoing global spread of the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the increasing diversion of precursors, as well as the related distribution and use of illicit drugs, and stresses the need to strengthen and intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels to tackle those global challenges in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance;

13. *Expresses its concern* that, despite the efforts of Member States and the international community, the extent of illicit drug use has remained stable, although patterns of abuse, production and trafficking continue to shift from country to country;

14. *Stresses* that it is absolutely imperative for Member States to strengthen international efforts in order to achieve more effective results in countering the world drug problem;

15. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate measures so as to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information regarding the identification of new routes and modi operandi of organized criminal groups dedicated to the diversion or smuggling of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular with respect to their trafficking via the Internet, and to continue to notify the International Narcotics Control Board of such information;

16. *Continues to encourage* Member States to promote, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/4,[14] the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, as well as the sharing of information with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and the regulation of new psychoactive substances;

17. *Encourages* Member States to adopt, where necessary, measures to strengthen public awareness of the risks, threats and negative impacts to society posed by the abuse of drugs;

18. *Recognizes*:

(*a*) That sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances require international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility and an integrated and balanced approach, taking into account the rule of law and, where appropriate, security concerns, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*b*) That such crop control strategies include, inter alia, alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, eradication and law enforcement measures;

(*c*) That alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure for countering the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of societies free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies;

(*d*) That such crop control strategies should be in full conformity with article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[13] and appropriately coordinated and phased in accordance with national policies in order to achieve the sustainable eradication of illicit crops and facilitate long-term development, noting furthermore the need for Member States to undertake to increase long-term investment in such strategies, coordinated with other development measures, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication in affected rural areas, taking due account of the traditional licit uses of crops where there is historical evidence of such use and giving due consideration to the protection of the environment;

19. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,[6] and encourages Member States, international organizations, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into due account the Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes;

20. *Recognizes* the significant role played by developing countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, in promoting best practices and lessons learned from such programmes, and invites them to continue sharing those best practices with States affected by illicit crop cultivation, including those emerging from conflict, with a view to using them, where appropriate, in accordance with the national specificities of each State;

21. *Urges* Member States to intensify their cooperation with and assistance to transit States affected by illicit drug trafficking, directly or through the competent regional and international organizations, in accordance with article 10 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and the need for all States to promote and implement measures to counter the drug problem in all its aspects with an integrated and balanced approach;

22. *Requests* the international community, in particular the countries of destination, to continue to provide, on the basis of the principle of shared

responsibility, urgent and sufficient technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States, in full cooperation with national authorities, in order to promote the capacities of such States to counter the flow of illicit drugs;

23. *Reiterates* the urgent need for Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation in order to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism and the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations, including the corruption of State officials, to avoid detection and prosecution;

24. *Recognizes* the increasing links between drug trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms in some regions of the world and the need to prevent the spread of that problem to other regions, and urges Member States to take adequate measures, consistent with their international treaty obligations and other relevant international standards, to fully cooperate in preventing the acquisition and use of firearms and ammunition by criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and in combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in such firearms and ammunition;

25. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against drug trafficking, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support for national and regional efforts in countering the world drug problem;

26. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and relevant regional organizations involved in addressing the world drug problem, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and scientific standards, and to maximize the benefits from their unique comparative advantage;

27. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, upon request, to continue providing technical assistance to Member States so as to enhance capacity in countering the world drug problem, including enhancing the analytical work of laboratories, by carrying out training programmes to develop indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the world drug problem and, where appropriate, enhance or develop new national indicators and instruments, and invites Member States to invest, where necessary and taking into account specific needs and available resources, in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities for the collection and reporting of information, and to participate in joint cooperation efforts organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and/or by other national, regional or international organizations and bodies, aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge of experts in the area of data collection, analysis and evaluation and of practical experience in the area of drug data;

28. *Recognizes* the need to collect relevant data and information regarding international cooperation for countering the world drug problem at all levels, and urges Member States to support dialogue through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to address this issue;

29. *Urges* Member States to regularly report data and information related to all aspects of the world drug problem to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the annual report questionnaires, including the data on significant individual drug seizures, as mandated by article 18 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[11] and invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body of the United Nations system on drug-related matters, to strengthen the capacity of the Office to collect, analyse, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data and to reflect such information in the *World Drug Report*;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts in supporting States to establish, upon request, operational frameworks essential for communication within and across national borders and in facilitating the exchange of information on and analysis of drug trafficking trends, with a view to increasing knowledge about the world drug problem at the national, regional and international levels, recognizes the importance of integrating laboratories and providing scientific support to drug control frameworks and of treating quality analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, and urges coordination with other international entities, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

31. *Urges* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its operational and technical cooperation activities, including with a view to assisting Member States with the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, as well as with the full implementation of relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission;

32. *Expresses concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and emphasizes the need to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources and to ensure their cost-effective utilization, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report, within existing reporting obligations, on the financial situation of the Office and to continue to ensure that the Office has sufficient resources to carry out its mandates fully and effectively;

33. *Takes note* of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/11 of 15 March 2013[14] on the recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encourages Member States and the Office to continue addressing the issues within the mandate of the working group in a pragmatic, results-oriented, efficient and cooperative manner;

34. *Encourages* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the International Narcotics Control Board to strengthen their useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and, in accordance with

Commission resolution 54/8 of 25 March 2011,[16] urges the Board to further strengthen communication with Member States and to work with them in identifying opportunities for more effective control and monitoring of the trade in precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

35. *Urges* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[12] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[20] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[21]

36. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board, as may be appropriate, adequate support and technical assistance to Governments, inter alia, in Africa, Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, and Oceania, so as to enable them to implement and fully meet their obligations under conventions and give adequate follow-up to subsequent resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, including for the strengthening of regulatory authorities and controls, provision of information and fulfilment of reporting requirements, and urges donors to contribute to the Office for those purposes;

37. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session,[14] the *World Drug Report 2013* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the most recent report of the International Narcotics Control Board,[22] and calls upon Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation and coordination to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, especially those in the opium group, as well as other aspects of the world drug problem, and to continue to take concerted measures within the framework of the Paris Pact[23] and other relevant regional and international initiatives and mechanisms, such as the "Heart of Asia" initiative, in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange with a view to countering drug trafficking with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

38. *Urges* Member States to continue to actively cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board in the exercise of its mandate, and emphasizes the need to ensure that an appropriate level of resources is made available to the Board to enable it to engage with Governments to effectively monitor compliance by States parties with the drug control conventions;

39. *Emphasizes* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, notes with appreciation their important contribution to the review process, and also notes that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate,

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[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[21] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[22] International Narcotics Control Board, document E/INCB/2012/1.

[23] See S/2003/641, annex.

should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy;

40. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, through consultation in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction;

41. *Encourages* the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, and in this regard acknowledges the discussions conducted at the twenty-third meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 20 September 2013, the twenty-third meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito from 30 September to 4 October 2013, the tenth meeting for Europe, held in Vienna from 2 to 5 July 2013, and the thirty-seventh meeting for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 October 2013;

42. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, addressing supply, demand and the diversion of precursor chemicals undertaken by regional organizations and transregional initiatives such as the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Triangular Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and other relevant subregional and regional organizations and initiatives, including the counter-narcotics strategy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for the period 2011–2016, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States, the European pacts to combat international drug trafficking and against synthetic drugs, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Senior Officials on Drug Matters workplan to combat illicit drug production, trafficking and use (2009–2015), with the aim of achieving a drug-free South-East Asia by 2015, and the South American Council on the World Drug Problem of the Union of South American Nations, as well as the recent intensification of partnering between the States members of the Caribbean Community, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America within the framework of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which aims, inter alia, to substantially reduce illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, the Accra Declaration, adopted at the twenty-second meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012, and the thirtieth International Drug Enforcement Conference, held in Moscow from 5 to 7 June 2013;

43. *Invites* Member States, in close consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to continue assisting African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/14 of 25 March 2011[16] and 55/9 of 16 March 2012,[24] and in this regard welcomes the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the

[24] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 8* (E/2012/28), chap. I, sect. B.

African Union Commission, in which the two organizations agreed to work together to enhance the complementarities of their activities;

44. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations agencies and entities and other international organizations, and invites international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream drug control issues into their programmes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role by providing relevant information and technical assistance;

45. *Welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12 of 15 March 2013[14] on the preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, which is to be held during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in 2014;

46. *Invites* Member States and observers to participate actively at the appropriate level in the high-level review, noting that the outcome of the high-level review shall be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, in view of the special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016;

47. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session, including by presenting proposals from the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Commission through the Economic and Social Council in support of the preparatory process, including progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, to be considered by the General Assembly starting at its sixty-ninth session;

48. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[25] and requests that he submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013

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[25] A/68/126.

United Nations A/RES/68/198

General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 16

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/435)*]

68/198. Information and communications technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011 and 67/195 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 and 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, and taking note of Council resolution 2013/9 of 22 July 2013 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling further the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[1] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[2] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[3] and endorsed by the Assembly,[4]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[6] as well as the special

[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[2] See resolution 59/220.
[3] See A/60/687.
[4] See resolution 60/252.
[5] Resolution 60/1.
[6] Resolution 65/1.

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event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,[7]

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[8]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[9]

Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, and the first 10-year review event of the World Summit on the Information Society, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris, from 25 to 27 February 2013,

Noting also the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking note of the "Broadband targets for 2015", which set targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, taking note also of the report entitled "The state of broadband 2013: universalizing broadband", which provides a country-by-country evaluation of those targets and the state of broadband deployment worldwide, as well as the report of the Broadband Commission entitled "Doubling digital opportunities: enhancing the inclusion of women and girls in the information society", which identified a digital gender gap of approximately 200 million fewer women online than men, and noting that without further action to increase access to broadband for women and girls, this digital gender gap could grow to 350 million by 2015,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

Noting the holding of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 3 to 7 June 2013,

Recognizing the need for respect for national sovereignty and applicable international law in the consideration of information and communications technologies for development, noting the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies, and reaffirming that the same rights people have offline must also be

[7] Resolution 68/6.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] A/68/65-E/2013/11.

protected online, including the right to privacy, as set out in its resolution entitled "The right to privacy in the digital age",[10]

Noting that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind and that the information society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and noting also that the promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages, as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[11] will further enrich the information society,

Acknowledging the positive trends in the global connectivity and affordability of information and communications technologies, in particular the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world's population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony and mobile Internet, the increased availability of multilingual content and the advent of many information and communications technologies services and applications, which offer great potential for the development of the information society,

Noting that progress and many innovations in the field of information and communications technologies, such as mobile Internet, social networking and cloud computing, contribute to a dynamic landscape that requires that all stakeholders continuously adapt to such innovations,

Recognizing ongoing efforts by relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders to conceptualize and articulate the impact of information and communications technologies on development, and encouraging the international community and relevant stakeholders to support the efforts of developing countries in harnessing the benefits of information and communications technologies for achieving the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective for sustainable development,

Stressing, however, that in spite of recent progress, there remains an important and growing digital divide between countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, and stressing also the need to close the digital divide, including with regard to such issues as Internet affordability, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all,

Reaffirming the need to more effectively harness the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside

[10] Resolution 68/167.

[11] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. V, resolution 25, annex I.

risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains that pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Expressing concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis on the positive trends in the diffusion of information and communications technologies and the investment needed to ensure universal access to those technologies and efforts to bridge the digital divide,

Expressing concern also about the growing gap in broadband provision between developed and developing countries, as well as about the new dimensions that the digital divide has taken on,

Recognizing that the lack of capacity-building for the productive use of information and communications technologies needs to be addressed in order to overcome the digital divide,

Recognizing also that the number of Internet users is growing and that the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value they can derive from it, and recognizing further in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies,

Recognizing further the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Recognizing the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity,

Reaffirming paragraphs 4, 5 and 55 of the Declaration of Principles adopted in Geneva in 2003, and recognizing that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are essential for the information society and are beneficial to development,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in combating cybercrime, and emphasizing the need to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes,

Acknowledging that the Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the information society and is a global facility available to the public,

Welcoming the announcement by Brazil that the country will host the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, to be held in São Paulo on 23 and 24 April 2014,

Recognizing that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and international organizations, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

Recognizing also the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, while acknowledging the calls for improvements in its working methods, and taking into account the recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Reiterating the significance of the process towards enhanced cooperation in full consistency with the mandate provided in the Tunis Agenda, and noting the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Reaffirming that the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizing that the two processes may be complementary,

Reaffirming also paragraphs 35 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012 and in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013,

Taking note of the successful meetings of the Internet Governance Forum held to date, and welcoming the offers to host the next three meetings of the Forum in Turkey in 2014, Brazil in 2015 and Mexico in 2016, in the event of the renewal of the mandate of the Forum,

Recognizing the unique role, challenges and opportunities for youth in a deeply interconnected world, and taking note of the celebration of the "BYND 2015" Global Youth Summit, hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and organized by the International Telecommunication Union together with other organizations of the United Nations system as well as partners from government, industry, media and civil society from 9 to 11 September 2013, as a contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda in the field of communications technology for development,

Recognizing also the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to enhancing access to information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communications technologies infrastructure, the Connect Africa summits held in Kigali in 2007 and in Cairo in 2008, the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk in 2009, the meeting of Commonwealth countries held in Colombo in 2010, the first and second Digital Agenda Assemblies of the European Union, held

in 2011 and 2012, the Connect Americas summit held in Panama in 2012, the Connect Arab States summit held in Qatar in 2012, the Connect Asia-Pacific summit held in Thailand in 2013, the Transform Africa summit held in Kigali from 28 to 31 October 2013, the various national and regional Internet governance forums that are held annually around the globe, the Mesoamerican Information Highway, the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway, the Asia Broadband and Universal Service Leaders Forum to be held in India in October 2015, events of the Alliance for Affordable Internet and many other regional initiatives aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and expresses concern about the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries, and Africa, as a continent, lagging behind the rest of the world;

3. *Expresses concern* regarding the digital divide in access to information and communications technologies and broadband connectivity between countries at different levels of development, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in such areas as government, business, health and education, and also expresses concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

4. *Acknowledges* that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to and use of information and communications technologies for their overall empowerment and benefit, and in this regard recalls the agreed conclusions of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;[12]

5. *Stresses* that, for the majority of the poor, the development promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

6. *Also stresses* the important role of Governments in the effective use of information and communications technologies in their design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

7. *Further stresses* the important role played by private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

8. *Recognizes* that, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communications technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and complemented by South-South cooperation, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation can be useful tools for promoting the development of information and communications technologies;

9. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

10. *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity;

11. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva[1] and Tunis[3] phases of the World Summit on the Information Society through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Tunisia, host of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international and regional organizations, for organizing annually the ICT 4 All Forum and technological exhibition as a platform within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit for promoting a dynamic business environment for the information and communications technologies sector worldwide;

13. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

14. *Also notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;[9]

15. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to

contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

16. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in this regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its efforts to promote the use of information and communications technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

17. *Also recognizes* the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society as an inter-agency mechanism of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination designed to coordinate United Nations implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum,[13] and requests the Secretary-General to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group, particularly on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

19. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all Internet Governance Forum meetings, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

20. *Invites* Member States and other stakeholders to give appropriate consideration to the issue of information and communications technologies for development in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

22. *Decides* to finalize the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, in accordance with paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, as early as possible, but no later than the end of March 2014, and invites the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to convene open intergovernmental consultations for that purpose;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

[13] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1.

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for development".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

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Agenda item 17 (*a*)

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/436/Add.1)*]

68/199. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 66/185 of 22 December 2011 and 67/196 of 21 December 2012 on international trade and development,

Noting its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010 on international trade and development,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] as well as the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[4] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[5]

Recalling also the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[6]

Recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[7]

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[4] Resolution 60/1.

[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[7] Resolution 65/1.

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Recalling the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its outcome documents,[8]

Recalling also the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Doha from 21 to 26 April 2012, and its outcome documents,[9]

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[10]

Reaffirming the value of multilateralism to the global trading system and the commitment to achieving a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment generation in all sectors, and emphasizing that bilateral and regional trading arrangements should contribute and be complementary to the goals of the multilateral trading system,

Reiterating that development concerns form an integral part of the Doha Development Agenda, which places the needs and interests of all developing countries, especially the least developed countries, at the heart of the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organization,[11]

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries, and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism and the commitments to comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade-distorting national support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the mandate from the Doha Work Programme, the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005,

Recalling the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,

Recognizing the importance of competition policy and legislation in order to enhance the international competitiveness of developing countries,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and

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[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chaps. I and II.

[9] See TD/500 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

[10] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[11] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Noting that, while some developing countries have been the main contributors to recent global economic growth, the economic crisis has reduced their capacity to withstand further shocks, recalling the commitments made to support development and strong, sustained, balanced and inclusive economic growth, and reaffirming the need to work cooperatively to meet development commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board[12] and the report of the Secretary-General;[13]

2. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations;

4. *Expresses serious concern* at the lack of progress in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, reiterates the call for the necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the current impasse in the negotiations, and in this regard calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations, in keeping with the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration,[11] the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of the decisions of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 15 to 17 December 2011, including the decision to allow members of the World Trade Organization to provide preferential treatment to services and suppliers from the least developed countries;

6. *Acknowledges* that trade has an important role in ensuring the sustainable economic development of the least developed countries and that the international trade architecture should continue to be supportive of and responsive to the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries;

7. *Welcomes* the appointment of the Director General of the World Trade Organization;

8. *Also welcomes* the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

9. *Further welcomes* the convening of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, and

[12] A/68/15 (Part I and Corr.1 and Add.1, Part II and Corr.1 and Parts III and IV).
[13] A/68/205.

stresses the need for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome;

10. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization relating to the least developed countries,[11] and encourages developed countries, and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;

11. *Emphasizes* the full, timely and effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[14]

12. *Reaffirms* the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries;

13. *Stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions and extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial, humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme and to not impose them in the future;

14. *Also stresses* the need to increase investment from all sources in agriculture and rural development, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, to the least developed and net food-importing developing countries, with a view to increasing their agricultural productivity and infrastructure;

15. *Recognizes* the particular challenges that may be faced by small, vulnerable economies to fully benefit from the multilateral trading system in a manner commensurate with their special circumstances, and in this regard encourages progress in the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, as mandated in the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration and the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, which supports their efforts towards sustainable development;

16. *Stresses* the need to identify and develop strategies to expand trade opportunities for women producers and facilitate the active participation of women in national, regional and global trade decision-making structures and processes, thereby ensuring that women- and men-owned businesses and farms have equal opportunities in markets;

17. *Reaffirms* the commitment to address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, and calls for the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[15] in accordance with the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;[16]

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[14] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[15] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[16] Resolution 63/2.

18. *Expresses concern* about the adoption of unilateral actions that are not consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, harm the exports of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, and have a considerable bearing on the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations and on the achievement and further enhancement of the development dimension of the trade negotiations;

19. *Notes* the holding in Geneva from 8 to 10 July 2013 of the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade, aimed at reviewing progress achieved and identifying additional measures needed to support developing and least developed countries in building their supply and export capacities, and stresses the need to implement the aid-for-trade commitments, with sufficient focus on results and impact;

20. *Recognizes* that South-South trade should be strengthened, notes that enhanced market access between developing countries can play a positive role in stimulating South-South trade, and in this regard, inter alia, takes note of the conclusion of the third round of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, by the adoption, on 15 December 2010, of the São Paulo Round Protocol;

21. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, invites the Conference to continue working to enhance its contribution in its three major pillars, namely, consensus-building, research and policy analysis and technical assistance, and calls upon the international community to work towards the strengthening of the Conference;

22. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, in accordance with its mandate, to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and of trends in international trade from a development perspective, and in particular to analyse issues of concern to developing countries, placing greater emphasis on practical solutions, to undertake policy analysis, including from a gender perspective, to work with all relevant stakeholders and to support developing countries in building productive national capacities and international competitiveness, including through technical assistance activities;

23. *Recognizes* the role of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and developments in the multilateral trading system, including their impact on women and men, under the sub-item entitled "International trade and development" of the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions";

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Director General of the World Trade Organization.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 17 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/436/Add.1)*]

68/200. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[1] which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997, 54/200 of 22 December 1999, 56/179 of 21 December 2001, 58/198 of 23 December 2003, 60/185 of 22 December 2005, 62/183 of 19 December 2007, 64/189 of 21 December 2009 and 66/186 of 22 December 2011,

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

Recognizing that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

[1] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.
[2] A/68/218.

Please recycle

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the imposition of measures of this nature and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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20 December 2013

United Nations A/RES/68/201

General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 17 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/436/Add.2)*]

68/201. International financial system and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, both entitled "Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity", as well as its resolutions 57/241 of 20 December 2002, 58/202 of 23 December 2003, 59/222 of 22 December 2004, 60/186 of 22 December 2005, 61/187 of 20 December 2006, 62/185 of 19 December 2007, 63/205 of 19 December 2008, 64/190 of 21 December 2009, 65/143 of 20 December 2010, 66/187 of 22 December 2011 and 67/197 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] Agenda 21,[4] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6]

Recalling further the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for

[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Please recycle

Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,[7]

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[8]

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and their respective outcome documents,[9]

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[10]

Recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, and taking note of its progress report,[11]

Recalling the high-level thematic debate on the state of the world economy and finance and its impact on development convened by the President of the General Assembly on 17 and 18 May 2012,

Recalling also the meeting of the Second Committee, held pursuant to resolution 67/197, on 13 November 2013, to discuss actions in response to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and prospects for restoring confidence and economic growth,

Noting the Sixth Astana Economic Forum and the World Anti-Crisis Conference, which were held in Astana from 22 to 24 May 2013, as well as the convening of the Second World Anti-Crisis Conference, to be held in Astana from 21 to 23 May 2014,

Noting also the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 20 to 22 June 2013,

Noting further the Summit of the Group of 20, held in Saint Petersburg on 5 and 6 September 2013,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among young people, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing

[7] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[9] Resolutions 65/1 and 68/6.

[10] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[11] A/64/884.

the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Noting that, while some developing countries have been the main contributors to recent global economic growth, the economic crisis has reduced their capacity to withstand further shocks, recalling the commitments made to support development and strong, sustained, balanced and inclusive economic growth, and reaffirming the need to work cooperatively to meet development commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Acknowledging that effective global economic governance in an increasingly interconnected world is of critical importance for the success of national efforts to achieve sustainable development in all countries and that, while significant efforts have been made over the years, there remains the need to continue to improve global economic governance and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this regard,

Recalling the commitment to work in solidarity on a coordinated and comprehensive global response to the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis on development and to take actions aimed at, inter alia, restoring confidence, sustaining economic growth and creating full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Reaffirming the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in its Charter, including to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends, and reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and job creation and promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

Recalling the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[12] and recognizing in this context that the international financial institutions should be supportive, in accordance with their mandates, of the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries,

Stressing the importance of commitment to ensuring sound domestic financial sectors, which make a vital contribution to national development efforts, as an important component of an international financial architecture that is supportive of development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[13]

2. *Recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, and reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national efforts to ensure sustainable

[12] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[13] A/68/221.

development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Reiterates* the need to act decisively to tackle the challenges confronting the global economy in order to ensure balanced, sustained, inclusive and equitable global growth with full and productive employment and quality jobs, and also reiterates the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing in order to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;

4. *Notes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the financial and economic crisis, and recognizes that more needs to be done in order to promote the economic recovery, to address turbulence in global financial and commodity markets, to tackle high unemployment and indebtedness in several countries, as well as widespread fiscal strains, to reinforce the banking sector, including by increasing its transparency and accountability, to address systemic fragilities and imbalances, to reform and strengthen the international financial system and to continue and to enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level;

5. *Also notes* that the United Nations, on the basis of its universal membership and legitimacy, provides a unique and key forum for discussing international economic issues and their impact on development, and reaffirms that the United Nations is well positioned to participate in various reform processes aimed at improving and strengthening the effective functioning of the international financial system and architecture, while recognizing that the United Nations and the international financial institutions have complementary mandates that make the coordination of their actions crucial;

6. *Recalls*, in this regard, the resolve to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations system and multilateral financial, trade and development institutions so as to support economic growth, poverty eradication, job creation and sustainable development worldwide, on the basis of a clear understanding of and respect for their mandates and governance structures;

7. *Also recalls* that countries must have the flexibility necessary to implement countercyclical measures and to pursue tailored and targeted responses to the crisis, and calls for conditionalities to be streamlined to ensure that they are timely, tailored and targeted and that they support developing countries in the face of financial, economic and development challenges;

8. *Notes*, in this regard, the increase in resources and the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and flexible instruments, such as the precautionary and liquidity line, the flexible credit line and the rapid financing instrument, and the refinement of the lending framework for low-income countries, while also noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities;

9. *Urges*, in this regard, the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded assistance that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries;

10. *Recognizes* the role of private capital flows in mobilizing financing for development, stresses the challenges posed by excessive volatility of short-term capital flows to many developing countries, notes that the design and

implementation of capital flow management measures to address those challenges, such as macroeconomic policies, macroprudential measures and various forms of capital account management, need to take into account the specific circumstances of individual countries, while also remaining fully cognizant of the potential risks involved in capital flow management;

11. *Also recognizes* the need for international financial institutions to promote, within their respective mandates, including by providing the right incentives for medium- and long-term investment and the sharing of best practices, the mobilization of capital flows in order to better channel national and international investment for sustainable development based on its three dimensions;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, notes in this regard the important steps taken in the reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions, which go in the direction of better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice, the participation and the voting rights of developing countries, and recognizes the importance of continuing such reform processes in an ambitious and expeditious manner in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions;

13. *Notes*, in this regard, the decisions taken by the World Bank Group on voice and participation and further institutional reforms to meet new challenges and the addition of the twenty-fifth Chair to the Boards of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group, and looks forward to progress in its institutional reforms;

14. *Calls for* the swift implementation of the 2010 quota and governance reform of the International Monetary Fund, notes the progress made by the Fund on the review of the quota formula in January 2013, and emphasizes the importance of continued discussions to reach agreement on the quota formula by January 2014, in parallel to the fifteenth general review of the quotas and as part of ongoing reform processes, in order to ensure the Fund's capability to address the challenges encountered by today's international monetary and financial system;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of an open, transparent and merit-based process for selecting the heads of the international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

16. *Emphasizes* the need for more effective government involvement in order to ensure an appropriate regulation of the market which promotes the public interest, and recognizes in this regard the need to better regulate financial markets to promote economic stability and sustained, equitable and inclusive growth;

17. *Also emphasizes* the need for continued coordination at the international, regional and national levels on regulatory frameworks for the financial markets and some of their products, notes that while it is still too early to estimate the full effects of Basel III, there is a concern that it may negatively impact some developing countries, and recognizes in this regard the need for continued efforts to ensure regulation and oversight of financial markets in fields such as shadow banking, derivatives and banks that are "too big to fail", with a view to promoting economic stability and equitable and inclusive growth;

18. *Recognizes* the role of special drawing rights as an international reserve asset, acknowledges that special drawing rights allocations helped to supplement international reserves in response to the world financial and economic crisis, thus contributing to the stability of the international financial system and global economic resilience, and also recognizes the need to continue regular reviews of the role of special drawing rights, including with reference to their potential role in the international reserve system;

19. *Reiterates* that effective, inclusive multilateral surveillance should be at the centre of crisis prevention efforts, stresses the need to continue strengthening surveillance of the financial policies of countries, and in this regard takes note of the new surveillance approach of the International Monetary Fund to better integrate bilateral and multilateral surveillance, along with cross-border and cross-sectoral linkages with macroeconomic and macroprudential policies, while paying closer attention to the spillover effects from national economic and financial policies onto the global economy;

20. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need to strengthen intergovernmental and independent surveillance of national financial policies and their impact on international interest rates, exchange rates and capital flows;

21. *Invites* the international financial and banking institutions to continue to enhance the transparency of risk-rating mechanisms, noting that sovereign risk assessments made by the private sector should maximize the use of strict, objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis, and encourages relevant institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue their work on the issue, including its potential impact on the development prospects of developing countries;

22. *Calls upon* the multilateral, regional and subregional development banks and development funds to continue to play a vital role in serving the development needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through coordinated action, as appropriate, stresses that strengthened regional development banks and subregional financial institutions can add flexible financial support to national and regional development efforts, thus enhancing their ownership and overall efficiency, and can promote regional integration, increasing resilience to economic shocks, welcomes in this regard recent capital increases at multilateral and regional development banks, and, in addition, encourages efforts to ensure that subregional development banks are adequately funded;

23. *Encourages* enhanced regional and subregional cooperation, including through regional and subregional development banks, commercial and reserve currency arrangements and other regional and subregional initiatives;

24. *Stresses* the need to continuously improve standards of corporate and public sector governance, including those related to accounting, auditing and measures to ensure transparency, noting the disruptive effects of inadequate policies;

25. *Recognizes* the need for international financial institutions, as appropriate, to promote gender mainstreaming in their policies and programmes, including macroeconomic, job creation and structural reform policies and programmes, in accordance with relevant national priorities and strategies;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant stakeholders;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development".

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/436/Add.3)*]

68/202. External debt sustainability and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011 and 67/198 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000,[1] and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling further the International Conference on Financing for Development and its outcome document [4] and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and its outcome document, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[5]

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Resolution 65/1.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.

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Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[6]

Recalling also the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[7]

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[8]

Recalling the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,[9]

Noting the thematic debate in the General Assembly on the role of credit-rating agencies in the international financial system, held on 10 September 2013, and the ongoing discussions on these issues,

Noting also the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council on external debt sustainability and development, held on 23 April 2013, which considered lessons learned from debt crises and the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms and the ongoing discussions on these issues,

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve national and international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledging that debt crises are costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting the poor and vulnerable in particular,

Reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies, including in the area of debt management, cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts, including to achieve development goals and to maintain debt sustainability, should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Reaffirming also that multilateral institutions, including entities within the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, should continue to play an important role, given their respective mandates, in assisting countries in achieving and maintaining debt sustainability,

Reiterating that debt sustainability depends on a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, and emphasizing that country-specific

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[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chaps. I and II.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] Resolution 68/6.

circumstances and the impact of external shocks, such as those derived from the world financial and economic crisis, should continue to be taken into account in debt sustainability analyses,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among young people, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system, while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Recognizing that the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis entail the possibility of undermining the progress made towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries, through, inter alia, the consequences for the real economy and government revenue and the need to increase borrowing to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis,

Recognizing also the importance of efforts and cooperation undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in response to the challenges posed by the world financial and economic crisis, and emphasizing the need to continue these efforts in a coherent and coordinated manner,

Recognizing further the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention and management tools for mitigating the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on developing countries,

Recognizing the role of private capital flows in mobilizing financing for development, stressing the challenges posed by excessive short-term capital inflows to many developing countries, including to their debt sustainability, and encouraging further review of the benefits and disadvantages of the macroprudential measures available to mitigate the impact of volatile capital flows,

Expressing concern that a number of low- and middle-income countries face challenges in servicing their debt,

Expressing deep concern that, in spite of international efforts, many least developed countries struggle with high debt burdens and are classified, in accordance with the debt sustainability assessments, as being in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, facilitated by the Paris Club, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 35 countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has provided needed debt relief and facilitated the reallocation of resources to investments in social services, while expressing concern that some post-completion point countries remain classified as being at high risk of debt distress and need to avoid rebuilding unsustainable debt burdens,

Convinced that enhanced market access for goods and services of export interest to developing countries contributes significantly to debt sustainability in those countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and development;

3. *Stresses* the importance of sustainable lending and borrowing, emphasizes that creditors and debtors must share responsibility for preventing unsustainable debt situations and must incorporate debt sustainability considerations into their financing decisions, notes the endorsement by some Member States of the principles of the initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote responsible sovereign lending and borrowing, and encourages Member States and relevant stakeholders to continue the ongoing discussions on this issue;

4. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to guide borrowing and lending decisions, and encourages the continued periodic review of the Framework in an open and transparent manner and with the full engagement of borrower and creditor Governments;

5. *Reiterates* that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgements about a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard, while acknowledging the need to use transparent and comparable indicators, invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in their assessment of debt sustainability, to continue to take into account a country's structural weaknesses and the fundamental changes caused by, inter alia, natural disasters, conflicts and changes in global growth prospects or in the terms of trade, especially for commodity-dependent developing countries, as well as by the impact of developments on financial markets, and to provide information on this issue to Member States, using the appropriate frameworks;

6. *Recognizes* that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems, and hence on the creation of an enabling international environment that is conducive to development;

7. *Also recognizes* the enormity and multidimensional nature of the world financial and economic crisis, which caused a sharp deterioration of the debt ratios in several developing countries, stresses the need to continue to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, notes in this regard the additional resources made available during and since the crisis through the International Monetary Fund and the multilateral development banks, calls for the continued provision of concessional and grant-based financing to low-income countries to enable them to respond to the consequences of the crisis, and notes the provision by the

[10] A/68/203.

International Monetary Fund of interest relief to low-income countries in the form of zero-interest payments on financing from concessional lending facilities until the end of 2014;

8. *Further recognizes* the roles of the United Nations and the international financial institutions in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, recalls in this regard the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and flexible instruments, such as the precautionary and liquidity line, the flexible credit line and the rapid financing instrument, while noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities, and urges the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded assistance that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries;

10. *Notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis and stabilize macroeconomic developments;

11. *Also notes* the progress made under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, facilitated by the Paris Club, and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, while expressing concern that some countries have yet to reach decision or completion points, calls for the full and timely implementation of those Initiatives and for continued support to the remaining eligible countries in completing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and encourages all parties, both creditors and debtors, to fulfil their commitments as rapidly as possible in order to complete the debt relief process;

12. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of the heavily indebted poor countries, calls upon them to continue to strengthen their national policies to promote economic growth and poverty eradication through, inter alia, the maintenance of a national environment conducive to private-sector development, a stable macroeconomic framework and transparent and accountable systems of public finance, and invites the international financing institutions and the donor community to continue to provide adequate and sufficiently concessional financing to those countries;

13. *Encourages* the international financial institutions to review the implementation and the impact of debt relief initiatives in order to better understand why some countries still face persisting debt problems after completion of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and calls for creditors and debtors to work together, inter alia, through the design of responses, including the broader use of debt management, to address them;

14. *Underlines* the fact that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy its full benefits unless all creditors, both public and

private, contribute their fair share and become involved in the international debt resolution mechanisms in order to ensure the debt sustainability of those countries, and invites creditors, both private and public, that are not yet fully participating in debt relief initiatives to substantially increase their participation, including through providing comparable treatment, to the extent possible, to debtor countries that have concluded sustainable debt relief agreements with creditors;

15. *Stresses* that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, economic development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard urges countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards achieving those objectives, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, according to their national priorities and strategies;

16. *Encourages* donor countries to take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative do not detract from other resources to be available for developing countries in accordance with official development assistance commitments;

17. *Notes with concern* that some low- and middle-income developing countries that are not part of the existing debt relief initiatives have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, indicating a need to consider, as appropriate, stronger debt management and debt relief initiatives for those countries, and encourages the consideration of medium- and long-term sustainability as well as new approaches to deal with bilateral and private non-Paris Club debt;

18. *Encourages* the Paris Club, in dealing with the debt of low- and middle-income debtor countries that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, to take into account their medium-term debt sustainability, in addition to their financing gaps, and notes with appreciation the Evian approach of the Paris Club in providing different terms of debt relief in order to respond to the specific needs of debtor countries while preserving debt cancellation for heavily indebted poor countries;

19. *Recognizes* the concerns about vulture fund litigation and that some debtor countries may experience difficulties in obtaining comparable treatment from non-Paris Club creditors, as required by the standard clause included in Paris Club agreements, and calls for the continued provision by the relevant institutions of mechanisms and legal assistance to debtor countries to solve litigation issues;

20. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through the cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of and calls upon the international community to continue to provide flexibility, and stresses the need to sustain those efforts in helping post-conflict developing countries, especially those that are heavily

indebted and poor, to achieve initial reconstruction for economic and social development;

22. *Also welcomes* the efforts of and invites creditors to provide flexibility to developing countries affected by natural disasters so as to allow them to address their debt concerns, while taking into account their specific situations and needs;

23. *Calls for* the consideration of additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based and other forms of concessional financing, the cancellation of 100 per cent of the eligible official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries and, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, significant debt relief or restructuring for developing countries with an unsustainable debt burden that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative;

24. *Invites* donor countries, taking into account country-specific debt sustainability analyses, to continue their efforts to increase bilateral grants to developing countries, which could contribute to debt sustainability in the medium to long term, and recognizes the need for countries to be able to promote employment and productive investment and to invest in, inter alia, health and education while maintaining debt sustainability;

25. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence and cost of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments and innovative mechanisms such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in Millennium Development Goal projects, as well as debt indexation instruments;

26. *Also calls for* the consideration of enhanced approaches to sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, based on existing frameworks and principles, with the broad participation of creditors and debtors, and for the comparable treatment of all creditors and an important role for the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant organizations within the United Nations system, and in this regard calls upon all countries to promote and contribute to the discussions, within the United Nations and other appropriate forums, on the need for and feasibility of a more structured framework for international cooperation in this area;

27. *Decides* to convene, at its sixty-ninth session, a special joint meeting of the Second Committee of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to consider lessons learned from debt crises and the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, building on the report prepared by the Secretary-General, and resulting in a summary of the meeting;

28. *Notes* the changing composition of the sovereign debt of some countries, which has shifted increasingly from official to commercial borrowing and from external to national public debt, although for most low-income countries external finance is still largely official, also notes that the levels of national debt and the significantly increased number of creditors, both official and private, could create other challenges for macroeconomic management and public debt sustainability, and stresses the need to address the implications of these changes, including through improved data collection and analysis and enhancing international efforts in support of building the debt management capacity in borrowing countries, at their request;

29. *Stresses* the need to increase information-sharing, transparency and the use of objective criteria in the construction and evaluation of debt scenarios, including an assessment of national public and private debt, in order to ensure the achievement of development goals, and encourages further improvement of the mutual exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, on borrowing and lending among all creditors and borrowers;

30. *Reaffirms* the importance of having access to credit-rating information, and of the reduction of transaction costs, taking into account that inaccurate forecasts render the international financial system more vulnerable to herd behaviour and cliff effects, which have the potential to exacerbate financial crises, and in this regard encourages greater transparency, independence, avoidance of conflicts of interest and competition among credit-rating agencies, including through the development of national capacities and mechanisms, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on this issue when preparing his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

31. *Invites*, in this regard, the President of the Economic and Social Council to give appropriate consideration to this issue by organizing a meeting during the regular programme of work of the next substantive session of the Council;

32. *Invites* the international community to continue efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in developing countries to enhance sustainable debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained;

33. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders, to continue and intensify cooperation in respect of capacity-building activities in developing countries in the area of debt management and debt sustainability;

34. *Acknowledges* that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, calls for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect data, and calls for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard;

35. *Requests* both creditor and borrower countries to incorporate debt sustainability considerations and greater transparency into their financing decisions, and encourages consideration, as appropriate, of the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and the Principles and Guidelines to Promote Sustainable Lending Practices in the Provision of Official Export Credits to Low-Income Countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as strategies for guiding financing policies, recognizing that both creditors and debtors have a shared interest and responsibility in promoting debt sustainability and sustainable financing;

36. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

37. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issue of external debt sustainability in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report, prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders, on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in the report a comprehensive and substantive analysis of the external debt situation of developing countries and options for enhanced approaches to debt restructuring and resolution mechanisms that take into account the multiple dimensions of debt sustainability;

39. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt sustainability and development".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 17 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/436/Add.4)*]

68/203. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/224 of 22 December 2004, 61/190 of 20 December 2006, 63/207 of 19 December 2008, 64/192 of 21 December 2009 and 66/190 of 22 December 2011 on commodities,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[1] the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005[2] and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[3] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013,[4]

Recalling further the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[5]

Taking note of the targets set out in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, held in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, which reaffirms the pledge to end hunger and poverty,[6]

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[7]

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Resolution 60/1.

[3] Resolution 65/1.

[4] Resolution 68/6.

[5] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[6] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[7] Resolution 63/303, annex.

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Recalling also the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Taking note of the outcome of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[8] and of further decisions and agreed conclusions on commodities adopted by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies in 2012 and 2013,

Taking note also of the political declaration of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs, held in New York on 22 September 2008,[9]

Taking note further of the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities adopted at the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade on Commodities, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 21 to 23 November 2005, and endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006,[10]

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[11] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[12]

Deeply concerned by the fact that many commodity-dependent developing countries and economies in transition continue to be highly vulnerable to price fluctuations, and recognizing the need to continue efforts to improve the regulation, where appropriate, and the efficiency, responsiveness, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets nationally, regionally and internationally in order to address excessive commodity price volatility,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand,

Recognizing the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities, especially on women and girls,

Recognizing also that many developing countries continue to be highly dependent on primary commodities as their principal source of export revenues, employment, income generation and domestic savings and as the driving force of investment, economic growth and social development, including poverty eradication,

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[8] See TD/500/Add.1.

[9] Resolution 63/1.

[10] See A/60/693, annex II, decision EX.CL/Dec.253 (VIII).

[11] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[12] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Recognizing further, in this context, that many least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries are highly dependent on primary commodities, and recognizing also the challenges and special needs of those countries, many of which are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Recognizing that uncertainty in global commodity markets reinforces the need to comprehensively deal with the commodity problematique, inter alia, the demand for commodities, supply capacities, commodity revenues and investments in commodity-dependent economies, while taking due account of the diversity of each country's individual situation and needs and the promotion of their sustainable development, and to strengthen the nexus between, inter alia, trade, food, finance, investment in sustainable agriculture, energy and industrialization,

Stressing the importance of policies to address longer-term structural issues of the commodity economy and integrate commodity policies into wider development and poverty eradication strategies at all levels,

Taking note of all relevant voluntary initiatives aimed at improving transparency in commodity markets and mitigating the impact of excessive price volatility,

Underlining the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, noting global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the joint organization data initiative and other regional data platforms and programmes, and urging the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on world commodity trends and prospects;[13]

2. *Underscores* the need for further efforts to address excessive commodity price volatility, in particular by assisting producers, especially small-scale producers, in managing risk;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of commodity-dependent developing countries to address the factors that create structural barriers to international trade and impede, inter alia, diversification, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, limited access to financial services resulting in scarce resources for investing in the commodity sector, weak infrastructure, particularly regarding both the cost and availability of transportation and storage, and lack of skills in producing and marketing alternative products;

4. *Calls for*, in that regard, the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations with a development-oriented outcome that ensures, inter alia, greater market access for products from developing countries;

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Bali, Indonesia, held from 3 to 7 December 2013, and stresses the need for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome;

[13] A/68/204.

6. *Calls for* a coherent set of policy actions at the national, regional and international levels to address excessive price volatility and support commodity-dependent developing countries in mitigating negative impacts, in particular by facilitating value addition and enhancing their participation in commodity and related product value chains, by supporting large-scale diversification of these economies and by encouraging the use and further development of market-oriented risk management tools, instruments and strategies;

7. *Stresses* the importance of developing and strengthening agricultural policies and strategies that recognize and address women's critical role in food security and improved nutrition outcomes as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity and malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries;

8. *Recognizes* the potential for innovation, productivity improvements and the promotion of non-traditional exports in most commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa, and calls for enhanced support by the international community as well as exchanges of experience in these areas within the framework of South-South economic cooperation;

9. *Underscores* the importance of increased investments in infrastructure as a means of promoting agricultural development and enhancing commodity diversification, including value-added production, and trade, and urges the international community to assist commodity-dependent developing countries to mainstream trade as well as sound investment and financial policies as key elements of development strategies, based on national circumstances and development priorities, and to invest in and support research and development of agriculture productivity;

10. *Recognizes* the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012;

11. *Also recognizes* the ongoing inclusive consultative process within the Committee on World Food Security to develop voluntary and non-binding principles for responsible agricultural investments that are intended for all stakeholders that are involved in, benefit from or are affected by these principles;

12. *Stresses* that technical assistance and capacity-building aimed at improving the commodity export competitiveness of producers is particularly important, especially in Africa, and invites the donor community to provide the necessary resources for commodity-specific financial and technical assistance, in particular for human and institutional capacity-building, as well as infrastructure development of developing countries, with a view to reducing their institutional bottlenecks and transaction costs and enhancing their commodity trade and development in accordance with national development plans;

13. *Also stresses* that the Aid for Trade initiative should aim to help developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from World Trade Organization agreements and, more broadly, to expand their trade;

14. *Recalls* the agreement to keep under regular review, by the Ministerial Conference and appropriate organs of the World Trade Organization, the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on the least developed countries as well as on the

net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries;

15. *Encourages* developed countries that have not already done so and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so to take steps towards the goal of realizing timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

16. *Strongly encourages* international financial institutions and development banks to assist developing countries, in particular commodity-dependent developing countries, in managing the effects of excessive price volatility;

17. *Reaffirms* that every State has and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of increasing efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in the management of public and private sector revenues in developed and developing countries derived from all commodities and commodities-related industries, including final processed goods, in support of development;

19. *Also recognizes* the important contributions of the Common Fund for Commodities and other international commodities organizations, and encourages them, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant bodies, to continue to strengthen coordination among them and to study ways to establish greater stability in the commodities market, as well as to enhance activities in developing countries to improve access to markets and the reliability of supply, enhance diversification and the addition of value, improve the competitiveness of commodities, strengthen the market chain, improve market structures, broaden the export base and ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders;

20. *Stresses* that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its partners, in the spirit of inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships and within their respective mandates, should continue to engage actively in collaborative research and analysis of the commodity problematique and related capacity and consensus-building activities, with a view to providing regular analysis and policy advice relevant to the sustainable development of commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly low-income countries;

21. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issue of commodities in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating accession to the World Trade Organization, particularly for commodity-dependent developing countries, in full compliance with its rules;

23. *Underlines* the urgent need for the provision of and access to trade finance to commodity-dependent developing countries, given the tightened access to all types of credit and noting debt sustainability;

24. *Stresses* the importance of the continuing substantive consideration of the sub-item entitled "Commodities", and decides to include the sub-item in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions";

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the updated assessment of commodity trends and prospects, long-term commodity prices and ways to strengthen coordination among international commodities organizations and other relevant international organizations.

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20 December 2013

United Nations A/RES/68/204

General Assembly

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Agenda item 18

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/437)*]

68/204. Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and its resolutions 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, 57/250, 57/272 and 57/273 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/230 of 23 December 2003, 59/225 of 22 December 2004, 60/188 of 22 December 2005, 61/191 of 20 December 2006, 62/187 of 19 December 2007, 63/239 of 24 December 2008, 64/193 of 21 December 2009, 65/145 and 65/146 of 20 December 2010, 66/191 of 22 December 2011 and 67/199 of 14 February 2013, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/34 of 26 July 2002, 2003/47 of 24 July 2003, 2004/64 of 16 September 2004, 2006/45 of 28 July 2006, 2007/30 of 27 July 2007, 2008/14 of 24 July 2008, 2009/30 of 31 July 2009, 2010/26 of 23 July 2010, 2011/38 of 28 July 2011, 2012/31 of 27 July 2012 and 2013/44 of 26 July 2013,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[3]

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document,[4] and the special event to follow up efforts made towards

[1] Resolution 55/2.
[2] Resolution 60/1.
[3] Resolution 63/303, annex.
[4] Resolution 65/1.

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achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,[5]

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[6]

Recalling further the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in New York on 7 and 8 October 2013,

Noting the meeting of the Global Business Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Partnering for innovative solutions for sustainable development", held in New York on 24 April 2013,

Noting also the meeting of the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York on 5 and 6 July 2012,

Taking note of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in New York on 22 April 2013,[7]

Recalling the special event on the financing of social development, held on 3 February 2012, during the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development,

Noting the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 25 February to 7 March 2008, on the theme "Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women",

Noting also the ongoing work on options for innovative sources of financing for development, including in various forums, such as the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development,

Noting further the informal event on innovative sources of financing organized by the Secretary-General on 3 June 2010, the separate meeting of the Second Committee, held on 13 October 2011, and the special event of the Economic and Social Council, held on 12 July 2012 during its substantive session,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[8] modalities of the financing for development follow-up process[9] and innovative mechanisms of financing for development,[10]

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among

[5] Resolution 68/6.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] A/68/78-E/2013/66.

[8] A/68/357.

[9] A/67/353.

[10] A/66/334.

youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Reaffirming the recognition, as contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of the need for the significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing in order to give strong support to developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development, including through actions undertaken in accordance with the outcome document of the Conference and for achieving sustainable development goals,

Noting the establishment of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion in 2010 as a mechanism for institutionalizing and continuing the work begun by the Financial Inclusion Experts Group in 2010,

Recalling the meeting of the Second Committee, held pursuant to resolution 67/197 of 21 December 2012, on 13 November 2013, to discuss actions in response to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and prospects for restoring confidence and economic growth,

Stressing the importance of the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the financing for development agenda at all levels,

1. *Reaffirms* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[11] in its entirety, its integrity and its holistic approach, and recalls the resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and to address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Also reaffirms* that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies for the achievement of sustainable development cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to advance and strengthen the global partnership for development as the centrepiece of cooperation in the years ahead, as reaffirmed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Monterrey Consensus, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[12] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review

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[11] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[12] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[13] the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[3] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[4] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] and the outcome document of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;[5]

4. *Reaffirms* that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to achieve equitable and effective development and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming in the formulation and implementation of development policies, including financing for development policies, and for dedicated resources, and recognizes the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields;

5. *Recognizes* that the mobilization of financial resources for development and the effective use of all of those resources are central to the global partnership for development, including in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and also recognizes that the mobilization of national and international resources and an enabling national and international environment are key drivers for development;

6. *Recalls* the importance of the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development, as spelled out in the Monterrey Consensus, particularly that solid democratic institutions which are responsive to the needs of the people are essential for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation;

7. *Reaffirms* that good governance and advancement of the rule of law at all levels are essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and hence reaffirms the importance of the implementation of the commitment to sound policies;

8. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and hunger;

9. *Reaffirms* that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained and inclusive economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services;

10. *Also reaffirms* that an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable system for mobilizing public resources and managing their use by Governments is essential;

[13] Resolution 63/239, annex.

11. *Recalls* the resolve of Member States to enhance and strengthen domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, the broadening of the tax base and the effective combating of tax evasion and capital flight, and reiterates that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters;

12. *Recognizes* that the development of a sound and broad-based financial sector is central to the mobilization of domestic financial resources and should be an important component of national development strategies, as well as the need to strive for diversified, well-regulated, inclusive financial systems that promote savings and access to financial services and channel savings to sound projects that increase sustainable, long-term economic growth, generate revenues and create jobs;

13. *Also recognizes*, in this regard, that microfinance, including microcredit, can be effective in generating productive self-employment, which can help contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and underlines the need to appropriately support, in a coordinated manner, the efforts of developing countries, including in capacity-building for microfinance and other financial services that can foster financial inclusion;

14. *Expresses deep concern* about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizes that there is a need to promote the recovery, and acknowledges that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires the timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments;

15. *Recalls* that the ongoing fight against corruption at all levels is a priority, reaffirms the need to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all its manifestations in order to reduce obstacles to effective resource mobilization and allocation and to prevent the diversion of resources away from activities that are vital for development, recalls that this requires strong institutions at all levels, including, in particular, effective legal and judicial systems and enhanced transparency, recognizes the efforts and achievements of developing countries in this regard, notes the increased commitment of States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[14] and in this regard urges all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention;

16. *Emphasizes* the need for more effective government involvement in order to ensure appropriate regulation of the market, which promotes the public interest, and in this regard recognizes the need to better regulate financial markets and to promote economic stability and sustained, equitable and inclusive growth;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhance disclosure practices and promote transparency in financial information, and in this regard notes that strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including through support and technical assistance to developing countries to enhance their capacities;

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42156.

18. *Emphasizes* the need to pursue, at the national level and in a manner consistent with national laws, appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks through which to encourage public and private initiatives, including at the local level, and to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while improving income growth and distribution, raising productivity, advancing women's empowerment and protecting labour rights and the environment, and reiterates the importance of ensuring that the benefits of growth reach all people by empowering individuals and communities;

19. *Notes* that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, in this regard calls upon developed countries to continue to devise source-country measures to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment, inter alia, through the provision of export credits and other lending instruments, risk guarantees and business development services, calls upon developing countries to continue their efforts to create a national environment conducive to attracting investments by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights, and stresses the importance of enhancing efforts to mobilize investment from all sources in human resources and in physical, environmental, institutional and social infrastructure;

20. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to address and to promote conditions for cheaper, faster, more transparent and safer transfers of remittances, in a non-discriminatory fashion, in both source and recipient countries, and invites Member States, as well as the private sector, international organizations, the banking community and other stakeholders, to work towards the further reduction of the transfer costs of remittances;

21. *Also reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and further reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

22. *Emphasizes* the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations;

23. *Notes* the progress made at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, and in this regard calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations, in keeping with the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration,[15] the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

24. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed

[15] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

25. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and reiterates that official development assistance can play a catalytic role in assisting developing countries in removing constraints on sustained, inclusive and equitable growth by, inter alia, enhancing social, institutional and physical infrastructure, promoting foreign direct investment, trade and technological innovations, improving health and education, fostering gender equality, preserving the environment and eradicating poverty, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

26. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance, to strengthen partnerships for development and to increase development effectiveness and impact, recognizes in this regard the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and other initiatives, such as all of the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to their outcomes, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of aid effectiveness, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

27. *Considers* that innovative financing sources and mechanisms can make a positive contribution towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for development on a voluntary basis, as well as maximizing the impact of existing public and private flows, and that such financing can be an important supplement to traditional sources of financing, and encourages, while highlighting the considerable progress on innovative sources and mechanisms of financing for development achieved to date, the scaling-up of present initiatives and the development of new approaches, as appropriate;

28. *Stresses* the need to strengthen and support South-South cooperation, while stressing further that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and calls for the effective implementation of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009;[16]

29. *Recognizes* that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are mutually supportive in terms of both technical and financial assistance, emphasizes in this regard the importance of further invigorating South-South cooperation, and

[16] Resolution 64/222, annex.

invites all Member States to enhance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in Governments, civil society and the private sector;

30. *Urges* the donor community, Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to strengthen the focus and the impact of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, the funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, and also to strengthen the mechanisms needed to effectively measure the resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance;

31. *Emphasizes* the special importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries in order to promote their economic growth and development;

32. *Also emphasizes* that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlines in this regard the importance of debt sustainability and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledges that sovereign debt crises tend to be costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investments, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting the poor and the vulnerable in particular;

33. *Stresses* that the financial and economic crisis has highlighted the need for reform and has added new impetus to ongoing international discussions on the reform of the international financial system and architecture, including on issues related to mandate, scope, governance, responsiveness and development orientation, as appropriate, and in this regard encourages continued open, inclusive and transparent dialogue;

34. *Notes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the financial and economic crisis in order to ensure a full return to growth with quality jobs, to reform and strengthen financial systems and to create strong, sustainable and balanced global growth;

35. *Recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems and the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness as complements to national development efforts to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

36. *Reaffirms* the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, notes in this regard the important steps taken in the reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions, which are directed towards better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice, the participation and the voting rights of developing countries, and recognizes the importance of continuing such reform processes in an ambitious and expeditious manner in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions;

37. *Also reaffirms* that the United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in

accordance with their respective mandates, have an important role to play in advancing development and protecting development gains, in accordance with national strategies and priorities, including progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and further reaffirms its determination to continue to take steps for a strong, well-coordinated, coherent, effective and efficient United Nations system in support of the Goals;

38. *Further reaffirms* the need to intensify the engagement of the regional commissions in the financing for development follow-up process, including through the provision of technical advice and analyses to be made available to Member States;

39. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process for carrying out the financing for development follow-up;

40. *Stresses* the relevance of the holistic financing for development agenda, as contained in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and in this regard emphasizes that the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development[8] provide the conceptual framework, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, for the mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing required for the achievement of sustainable development;

41. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and looks forward to the report of the Committee proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives as a contribution to the financing for development follow-up process as well as to an intergovernmentally agreed United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

42. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need to reinforce coherence and coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts with regard to the financing for development process, with a view to ensuring a single, comprehensive, holistic, forward-looking approach addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development;

43. *Decides* to convene, in 2015 or 2016, a third international conference on financing for development to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, to reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, to identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and to address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account the current evolving development cooperation landscape, the interrelationship of all sources of development finance, the synergies between financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

44. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, as soon as possible, inclusive and transparent intergovernmental consultations, with the participation of the major institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development process, as appropriate, on all issues related to the conference,

including the date, format, organization and scope, taking into account the elements contained in the present resolution, and requests the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide secretariat support for the consultations;

45. *Recalls*, in this regard, the need to review and explore the modalities of the financing for development process, including possible arrangements to strengthen the process, as well as options for bringing together the various processes covering development financing in an integrated manner;

46. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, which would facilitate the implementation of a strengthened and more effective inclusive, intergovernmental process for carrying out the financing for development follow-up;

47. *Recognizes* the work of the Financing for Development Office, and encourages the Office, in collaboration with experts from the public and private sectors, academia, civil society and other multilateral organizations who work in the field of financing for development, to continue its work in accordance with its mandate;

48. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference", and requests the Secretary-General to submit, under the item, an annual analytical assessment of the status of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, and of the present resolution, to be prepared in full collaboration with the major institutional stakeholders.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 19

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/438)*]

68/205. World Wildlife Day

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto, under the section "Criteria for the proclamation of international years", as well as paragraphs 13 and 14 under section II of the annex, which stipulate that a year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reaffirming also the intrinsic value of wildlife and its various contributions, including its ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human well-being,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Recognizing the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora[7] in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species' survival,

Taking note of the outcome of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held in Bangkok from 3 to 14 March 2013, in particular its resolution 16.1 designating 3 March as World Wildlife Day, in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora,

Recalling its resolution 67/189 of 20 December 2012, in which it expressed deep concern about environmental crimes, including trafficking in endangered and, where applicable, protected species of wild fauna and flora, and emphasized the need to combat such crimes by strengthening international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts,

Recalling also the Convention on Biological Diversity[8] and all its objectives, and recalling that, in its resolution 65/161 of 20 December 2010, the General Assembly declared the decade 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 3 March, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, [7] as World Wildlife Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe and raise awareness of World Wildlife Day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with national priorities;

3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, and that such activities would be subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wildlife Day, and, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 under section IV of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-first session about the implementation of the present resolution, elaborating, inter alia, on the evaluation of the Day.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

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[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

United Nations A/RES/68/206

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/438)*]

68/206. Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008, 64/195 of 21 December 2009, 65/147 of 20 December 2010, 66/192 of 22 December 2011 and 67/201 of 21 December 2012 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,[1] in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3]

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211, 64/195, 65/147, 66/192 and 67/201,

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

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Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 67/201, it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the Assembly has yet to be implemented,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Acknowledging also the possible options proposed to measure and quantify the environmental damage as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the Trust Fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/201 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;[4]

2. *Reiterates*, for the eighth consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General

[4] A/68/544.

Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations involved in the initial assessment of the relevant environmental damage to undertake within existing resources, a further study, building on the initial work of the World Bank presented through the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly,[5] with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by Lebanon and by neighbouring countries;

6. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

7. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant;

8. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon in this matter, in particular for the rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast and in the broader recovery efforts, and stated that such international effort should be intensified, since Lebanon is still engaged in the treatment of wastes and the monitoring of recovery, reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

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[5] A/62/343.

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[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/438)]

68/207. Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter, in particular its resolution 66/196 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling also the Manila Declaration on World Tourism,[1] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and Agenda 21,[3] the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] the Declaration of Barbados[7] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[8] the Mauritius Declaration[9] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[10] the Istanbul Declaration,[11] the Programme of

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[1] A/36/236, annex, appendix I.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] A/55/640, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[8] Ibid., annex II.

[9] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

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Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[12] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[13]

Recalling further the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[14]

Welcoming the ongoing efforts made by Member States and the United Nations system in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the important role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of quality of life and its contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, especially in developing countries,

Emphasizing that sustainable tourism in Central America is a cross-cutting issue with close linkages to other sectors, generates trade opportunities and is a fundamental pillar of regional integration and an engine of social and economic development, income, investment and hard currency and therefore contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing that poverty eradication through tourism with a focus on ecotourism, community-based tourism and micro- and small businesses in the tourism supply chain is a key objective in the strategic planning of the Central American countries,

Acknowledging the objectives, efforts and achievements of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production and of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism,

Acknowledging with appreciation the processes called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that are now under way, including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the Joint Declaration, the Plan of Action and the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, adopted in San Salvador on 22 July 2011, and the Declaration of the Central American Tourism Council, adopted at its eighty-second meeting, held in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, on 7 July 2011,

Noting the outcomes of the Forum on Tourism, Sustainability and Climate Change in Central America, held from 11 to 13 April 2013 in La Ceiba, Honduras, under the auspices of the World Tourism Organization, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the Central American Integration System and the Forests of the World organization, among others,

1. *Takes note* of the report submitted by the Secretary-General, taking into account the reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization;[15]

2. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the Governments of Central America, in coordination with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, in the implementation of existing and new programmes designed to launch and promote sustainable tourism throughout the region;

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[12] Ibid., chap. II.

[13] Resolution 68/6.

[14] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[15] A/68/278.

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the principles of sustainable tourism by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, conceptualized by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council of the World Tourism Organization through its Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria to serve as the framework for tourism development, which are expressed in the strategic plan for sustainable development, 2009–2013, developed by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, capturing the region's vision of itself as an integrated, sustainable, multi-location destination of high quality;

4. *Notes* the valuable role of international cooperation with relevant partners in the implementation of various projects aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in the region, including by strengthening ecotourism, rural tourism and colonial cities tourism;

5. *Also notes* the existing joint initiatives designed and implemented to stimulate regional tourism integration, such as the Mayan World regional brand;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Central American countries in converging on a regional tourism strategy based on conserving the region's biodiversity and natural and cultural attractions, reducing poverty through employment and entrepreneurial tourism development that emphasizes the micro- and medium-sized enterprises that dominate the industry, addressing climate change and using tourism as a tool to improve the quality of life of the region's inhabitants;

7. *Notes* the progress made by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat in promoting an action plan for tourism and climate change, as a component of the regional strategy on climate change, with support from the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, which contemplates actions to reduce vulnerability in the tourism sector and foster climate change adaptation and mitigation;

8. *Welcomes* the actions taken with the aim of establishing the Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism network in the Americas, which may well serve as a model for the rest of the region and the Americas in using data on sustainable tourism for improving policies and offering capacity-building to enhance the sustainability of destinations;

9. *Recognizes* the need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building efforts that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole;

10. *Also recognizes* the opportunities for promoting sustainable tourism activities through the programme on sustainable tourism and its component on ecotourism under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;

11. *Stresses* the need to promote the further development of sustainable tourism, in particular through the consumption of sustainable tourism products and services, to strengthen the development of ecotourism, building on the implementation of the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, while maintaining the culture and environmental integrity of indigenous and local communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the natural heritage, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening

of rural and local communities and micro- and medium-sized enterprises, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change and the need to halt the loss of biodiversity;

12. *Also stresses* the need for enhanced support for sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building in developing countries, in order to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

13. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issue of sustainable tourism in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote sustainable tourism worldwide;

15. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders and the World Tourism Organization to continue to support the activities undertaken by the Central American countries for the promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism in the region, in the context of emergency preparedness and mitigation of and response to natural disasters, as well as for capacity-building, in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals by extending the benefits of tourism to all sectors of society, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population;

16. *Encourages* the Central American countries, through the Central American Tourism Council and the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, to continue to support sustainable tourism with policies that foster responsive and inclusive tourism, strengthen regional identity and protect the natural and cultural heritage, especially their ecosystems and biodiversity, and notes that existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments to this end;

17. *Also encourages* the Central American countries to share their experiences on sustainable tourism aimed at contributing to poverty alleviation for the benefit of all countries;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on developments related to the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013